



## **Welcome to Spiritual Formation in Community**

*“The Spirit-driven process of forming my inner being so that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself.”*

# Check-In

---



*What's your  
emotional weather  
right now?*

# 3 Prominent Worldviews

---

## **Nirvana**

Not a loving, personal God; escaping the cycle of suffering by the extinction of desire and cessation of the ego. The ultimate state of liberation from all suffering and attachment

## **Secular**

What exists can be known and measured by natural science. The spiritual realm is not knowable, or even real. The good life is understood primarily in terms of physical or material comfort and prosperity

## **Theistic (Christian)**

Reality is God and His Kingdom in a spiritual existence that is real and foundational for the physical world. We are unceasing spiritual beings in a personal, dynamic, conversational and interactive relationship with God.



Your daily mantra...

# I wake up in the Kingdom this morning

an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe



I breathe Kingdom air (LOVE)  
I burn Kingdom fuel (GRACE)  
I build Kingdom character  
I do Kingdom work



*Jesus came to show by example and to teach by principle how to have the best possible life in this physical world and preparation for the life to come at the same time*

# 2 Kings 6:16-17

*What do you want me to know about what just happened?*

---

*What do you want me to see in this relationship that I cannot see right now?*

---

*What is the Kingdom truth in this moment?*

*"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."*

And Elisha prayed,  
**"O Lord, open his eyes so he may see."**

Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

What is the common denominator between worldviews, a mantra and seeing the invisible?

# BELIEF

*"The time has come," he said. "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

Mark 1:15

**Why did Jesus tell us to repent,  
or to rethink the way we think about everything?**

We don't **believe** something we don't first **think** about, and we don't **know** something **by experience** that we don't first **believe**, and we certainly cannot **teach** something we haven't **personally experienced**.



# A Word Study

---



## **Factual Knowledge** – *gnosis*

(a beginning set of facts about life)

*There is a God* - the universe is not a closed system; the physical world did not create itself

*Jesus rose from the dead* - extra-biblical evidence of witnesses

Factual knowledge without faith leads to a belief I can hold but don't really trust in

## **Faith** - *pistis*

(a **noun**; firm persuasion; a conviction based on hearing; a trust that can lead to action)

The Spirit of God speaks into my faith, and I choose to add action resulting in belief

## **Belief** – *pisteuo*

(a **verb**; goes beyond intellectual assent to **trusting** in, **relying** on, and **acting** on)

I believe in a God, leading to I believe in the God who rose from the dead

I believe Jesus lived and taught good things; I believe Jesus was God; I can trust what he taught

## **Experiential Knowledge** – *epignosis*

(a deep, experiential knowledge of God and His will)

I now know by experience, my belief and faith are stronger and continuing to grow

# Experiential Knowledge

Discipleship in today's culture is not about having more information

Our challenge as disciples today is to have the **right information**, have **faith** in it, **believe** it by arranging our lives around it, and come to **know it by experience**

*To believe something is true is to act as if it were so*

**In the Kingdom there is no such thing as believing something you don't practice**

We don't organize our life around what we don't believe, even if we've said we believed it for years.



# Life on the Rock

---



**Matthew 7:24-27**

A home where you can live without anxiety or worry

A beautiful garden of plants and shrubs with an orchard of trees  
all producing amazing flowers and fruit

**Identity**

**Friendships**

**Grief/Loss**

**Conflict**

**Thought Life**

**Generosity**

**Worth & Value**

**Marriage**

**Health**

**Injustice**

**Recreation**

**Wounds**

**Neighbors**

**Work**

**Joy**

**Success**

**Pleasure**

**Money**



**Life on the Rock**

---



**Hear & Obey**

## Homework

---

Keep saying your  
daily Kingdom  
mantra

Journal each day  
where you saw God  
at work...

IN YOU  
AROUND YOU  
THROUGH YOU

An underwater photograph showing several divers in various poses against a blue background. The word "Homework" is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

# Homework